

NEW YORK HERALD

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increase makes it more widely representative of the city. At present its membership, in proportion to the population, is smaller by far than that of similar organizations at work in cities like Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco and Boston. The Merchants Association has proved its value to the city; let the city stand by it.

Where Reorganization Stalled.

IT WAS CHARLES G. DAWES, President HARRING's first Director of the Budget, who declared in a public address that the most formidable obstacle to putting the business of the national Government on a business basis was the members of the Chief Executive's own Cabinet. He charged that in the main the Cabinet officers kept their eyes so intently on the political situation that they did not see or did not care what poor business management of the business affairs of the Government was costing the public both in the service it got and the taxes it paid for that service. That was where Government reorganization stalled.

Now comes word from Washington that the plan of President HARRING, as worked out by WALTER F. BROWN and his reorganization committee, to reorganize the departments, abolish overlapping of work and effect economies has "hit the rocks" because of the opposition of several of his Cabinet.

The average Cabinet officer, like the average private citizen, wants things reformed when they need reforming, provided they are the other fellow's things. A chief of a United States department, not a Mellon or a Hughes, perhaps, but the general run of department heads, could stand seeing all the other departments clipped, dry shrunk or revamped; he could stand seeing them all amalgamated into one or even obliterated. But in his own department he cannot suffer losing a single office boy whose father controls a vote or two in some election district back home. He cannot spare a postage stamp out of his millions of appropriations, and he knows the country could not survive a single drop less of paint on the back steps of his department building.

The Labor Union Bank.

New York can genuinely welcome the proposed bank to be established here by members of the local trades unions. There is no reason why such an institution should not be successful if it is operated on sound business principles and under good business management. In various cities, notably in Cleveland, there are such banks and branches of banks that have filled a want of their patrons and have prospered for themselves. New York may well prove to be as rich a field for this sort of banking for a special group of workers.

Any movement or institution that encourages saving is a good thing both for the savers and for the community, for it is out of the surplus earnings and investable savings of those in affluent and in moderate circumstances alike that the enterprises of the country are financed and started on the road of creating more wealth. Without saving to supply the needed capital there cannot be new industrial works.

Furthermore, there is no better way for anybody to learn the responsibilities and the difficulties of an important economic undertaking than to try it himself. The unionized workers who go into the banking business with their own money undoubtedly will gain a very different opinion of what that business really is from what they have now. They can do much out of their own experience and by their own example to help the general public to comprehend both the opportunities and the limitations of banking that is safe, sound and useful.

THE NEW YORK HERALD wishes the proposed Federation Trust Company every success.

Fruits of Game Conservation.

Those who predicted that the migratory bird treaty act would lead to a greatly increased supply of waterfowl are pleased by the reports of the opening of the ducking season on the Susquehanna flats in Maryland.

This area of ten thousand acres is considered the best of the public ducking grounds within a reasonable distance of New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilmington and Washington, and the canvasbacks feeding on the celery beds between Havre de Grace and Turkey Point are said by gourmets to have a flavor all their own. These waters are also the resort of that other fine duck, the red head; it takes an expert to tell the difference between the two when they are on the dinner table with their accompaniment of fried hominy.

The quality of the sport on the opening day in Maryland may be judged by the returns, which show that eight hundred gunners killed twenty thousand birds, a record which has not been equaled in the memory of the oldest professionals on the grounds. The bag that day equaled the total for the entire season of 1915-16. These circumstances illustrate forcibly the benefits of conservation made possible by the treaty between the United States and Canada. This treaty does away entirely with spring shooting and guarantees that the birds shall have freedom from molestation on their Canadian breeding grounds, where at one time a thriving trade was done in the eggs of waterfowl.

Those who have shot in the neighborhood of Havre de Grace and Perryville this season say that more birds are in view than ever before, despite the record of the opening day. The regulations governing ducking in

Maryland permit shooting every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in November and December, and on all the Saturdays in January. The total number of birds taken during the season must be enormous, with a daily bag limit of twenty-five ducks and ten geese to a man.

Under the law there may be no trafficking in game, and the occasional violations of the statute are promptly punished wherever the authorities can make out a case. Game wardens patrol the area in fast motor boats and any gunner may be called upon to stand up in his sink box and display his license.

The increase of waterfowl on the Susquehanna within a few years indicates that with a continuance of the policy which brought it about the supply of game birds should grow rather than diminish.

Anger, Expensive Luxury.

Rage is expensive. A Vermont man found this out after having his fling with a telephone instrument which would not raise Central. He tore the machine from the wall and carried it in his motor car to the central office, where he hurled it through a window pane. In the end he had to pay for the damage he had done and he was fined \$25 for breaking the peace.

His loss was greater than that, really, for he did damage to his mind and his body which ten times \$25 would not cover. Blind anger of this kind is more dangerous to the brain than a whack on the head. It is more dangerous to the body than sitting in a draft or eating a whole mince pie. Rage poisons the body just as surely as arsenic. It checks the normal functions, particularly digestion. It saps vitality and weakens the wonderful human machine.

Anger, and particularly anger over trifles like telephone messages, is trouble. Foaming at the mouth never brought quick action. This rage over petty things harms the man who indulges in it and the persons around him. These bursts of passion break up homes. They wreck business enterprises. They strike at good manners, which are the base of human conduct. Without such senseless exhibitions of bad temper there would be fewer failures, divorces and wars.

The Mussel Is Not Wild.

It is possible to own a mussel without chaining him up or keeping him in a cage. The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on this matter will be of the deepest interest to those who have contemplated having a pet mussel. Now they know that under the law of the land the mussel is not a wild animal as the law knows wild animals. He is not feral nature, like the fox and the partridge. He is reckoned among the domestic animals. And of course, although the court did not mention it, the mussel is delicious when properly picked.

Mussel hunting, that great sport of the Mississippi Valley, may lose some of its glamour through the decision. When the mussel was generally regarded as a wild animal he was game to be pursued to the death; pursued into whatever water he might flee at the approach of the mussel hunters went up a navigable stream and bagged huge quantities of mussels, selling the valuable shells of these mollusks to the pearl button barons of New York. The owner of the banks of the stream where the mussels were taken went to court about it, protesting that these mussels were his mussels; that they had lived on his property since their infancy; and that they were, as the lawyers say, subjects of absolute property.

Only the highest of all our courts could say for certain, it became evident, whether the mussel was wild or domesticated. Was he like the hawk in the windswept sky or like Fido barking at the moon? Mr. Justice HOLMES, whose father could have written a dandy poem about a wild, carefree mussel, uttered the opinion which forever brands the mussel as domestic. The pearl bearing mollusk is not in the same class with roving birds and fish. "The owner of the land where a mussel pitches his tent is the owner of the mussel too. Who steals his mussels is a wicked trespasser."

So, we may well imagine, the legal character of the oyster and the clam have been established. How can they be wild if the mussel is not? How can any animal be of wild nature if it digs in on a man's land and stays there? But there is one thing about the mussel that the court's profound decision will not affect. The mussel shells which most men wear in the form of shirt buttons will come off in the laundry as regularly as ever. And the men, unlike the mussel, will keep on getting wild.

Theater Ticket Speculators.

Previous efforts to curb the voracity of the ticket speculator have originated either with the theater managers who pretend inability to conquer him or with the city authorities when they have tried to keep the price of tickets somewhere near the figures printed on them. The experienced theatergoer has learned that whatever may be the source of any attempt at a diminution of the nuisance it usually continues as prevalent as ever.

Now relief is suggested by a manager and an actor, both actuated by artistic rather than commercial motives. The chief demand for seats, it appears, does not ordinarily extend more than a dozen rows from the stage. These bring the inflated prices asked by the speculators. If the actors would only speak out, says MARC KLAU, the public would not insist upon sitting so near the stage. It would be willing to take some of the other places from which one can see and one could also hear if the actors would only change their methods. They must speak up. The premium on theater seats is due to their unintelligibility. If the actors would only enunciate so that they could be heard one seat would, in Mr. KLAU's opinion, be almost as desirable as another. It will be possible if this millennium arrives to hear in all parts of the theater.

In spite of the strike of the actors Mr. KLAU's suggestion has the endorsement of HENRY HULL, who has expressed his confidence in the raised voice of the player. He thinks it would sound the knell of the speculator. He does not blame the player but the director who believes that to be modern and lifelike is to be inaudible to the audience. If the director can be wooed from this view of his art there may be an opportunity for the theatergoer to buy his ticket at the box office price.

When two authorities so widely separated as the manager and the actor agree on any topic concerning the welfare of the theater it may be worth while to give their suggestions a trial. So will the actors please speak up?

For These Innocents.

Legislation to make legitimate helpless victims of the fraudulent Miller divorcees in Westchester county will be favored by all who understand the priceless privilege this would assure to the unfortunate children who were deprived by the avariciousness of a legal impostor of the birthright to which all of them are entitled. Without a special act of the Legislature more than one hundred children of couples who thought themselves legally divorced and thus free to marry again will be without a name. Through the criminal machinations of an absconding attorney these marriages entered into them in good faith, are bigamous under the law and their offspring are illegitimate.

There is another view of the situation besides that which rests on humanity and justice. In years to come there might be endless litigation as the result of these unions. Especially confusing would be the questions of inheritance which might arise in the case of the descendants of couples divorced by this lawyer's device. If by a special act of the Legislature these marriages were declared valid when the parties contracted them in good faith no such disturbing and complicated issues could arise.

But it is the simple humanity of the proposed measure which recommends it to all men and women who sympathize with these children. It was in the years 1919, 1920 and 1921 that these fraudulent divorces were manufactured by the attorney HENRY F. MILLER. Unless a special act of the Legislature makes legal the subsequent unions of his innocent victims the harvest of unhappiness and shame may continue for half a century.

A Traffic Court Solomon.

Judge BARTLETT of Detroit has chosen a wise way to show reckless drivers the real evil of their offense. Not content with sentencing them to prison the Judge causes them to be taken to a hospital to see a ward filled with children injured in traffic accidents.

Nothing could better bring home to a driver, one perhaps naturally lacking in imagination, the blackness of the wrong he does in violating the law. In the ordinary legal course he may be impressed only by the severity of the courts. He pays a fine or goes to prison and his chief feeling is resentment.

But the man who sees the sad results of infractions like his understands why the law is stern. He understands why he must be punished. He realizes that his thoughtless act may have as a consequence the killing or hopeless crippling of a child, the infliction of a lifetime of wretchedness upon an innocent fellow creature.

Every year in this city the motor cars kill a thousand persons. A pitiful large percentage of the victims are children too young to realize the perils of the streets. In the country at large 25,000 persons annually are badly injured in motor accidents. The drivers are not always to blame, but it would be well if every driver could see the picture which Judge BARTLETT compels the guilty chauffeurs of Detroit to look upon.

Laws are necessary, but it is the human heart that really keeps the peace of the world.

California has shipped its first carload of oranges from the 1922 crop. The fruit goes to Ontario, Canada. For the time being the future of the breakfast table is assured.

The Cedar Hill.

On the crest of the cedar hill is the place where I would be. With the sweep of the mountain sky tenderly mothering me, And the Michaelmas daisies there sowing the slope like stars, And the clear cool dip of the spring down by the pasture bars.

On the crest of the cedar hill I would see the sun sink low, And the valley lie like a dream in the gleam of the afterglow, Filled with a rich-hued haze as a chalice is with wine— Amber and amethyst—to the distant mountain line.

I would wait for the round low moon to rise up over the rim Of the crowning crest to the east like a shining seraphim, And the pleading plaintive note of a late lone whippoorwill! To bid me hasten home from the crest of the cedar hill.

Buy Christmas Seals.

The Sale Begins December 1 and Will Aid War on Tuberculosis.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Despite a continued slight decrease in the tuberculosis death rate of 5 per cent. in this city so far this year this treacherous, insidious and needless scourge took 4,517 victims here between January 1 and October 1, and the death toll is still rolling up.

Tuberculosis spares no place and it respects no age. Of the 27,300 sufferers in this city reported by the Health Board 197 are children under 5 years of age, 1,786 are school children between 5 and 16 years of age, and the remaining 25,317 others are in the adult population of the city. Under such circumstances it is plain that the fight must be kept up in order that the public may be protected.

Between December 1 and Christmas we shall conduct our annual sale of Christmas seals, the proceeds of which will be practically our sole reliance for funds with which to carry on our work during the winter months.

Announcement of this sale will be made again as December 1 draws near, but meanwhile, and for the good of New York, we shall be glad to give helpful information without charge to all who may inquire of us.

NEW YORK TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION. NEW YORK, November 16.

To Curb Reckless Driving.

Automobilists Asked to Band Themselves Together for Safety.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: The continued and increasing toll of lives in the streets of this city and other cities is the responsibility of every sane and careful motorist, to say nothing of the careful pedestrian. The death of one of our bridge patrolmen as a result of reckless driving is bound to provoke resentment against wild driving.

As an operator of my own automobile I am constantly confronted with the peril of city driving, which is greatly accentuated by the utter disregard of rules shown by reckless and irresponsible drivers. This mad practice of offensive driving is reaching a point when it seems to me that both owners and chauffeurs of the sane and thinking class must band themselves to cooperate with the police in putting down this increasing peril with its terrific price tag.

I hope this communication may strike a note that will serve to interest motorists who drive for pleasure and who recognize the rights of other motorists and pedestrians too, so that an infringement of the traffic regulations which might be unobserved by the police might be duly reported by a member of this Safe Driving Association and the offender brought to justice.

Undoubtedly a good number of street accidents are due to the defiant and daring attitude of pedestrians in the streets. Many persons afoot in cross-streets at not proper crossings positively loiter and seem to challenge the man at the wheel.

H. H. MYERS. NEW YORK, November 16.

Skyscrapers Mean Crowds.

Street Dangers Increased by the Congestion They Cause.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: In 1921 there were 1,000 deaths due to automobile accidents in New York city, and in 1922 so far there have been 1,900 and the number is continually increasing.

Why is this? Is it because chauffeurs are becoming more careless? Not at all. It is due to increased congestion brought on by the building of skyscrapers, which are making New York a denser city than ever before. Unless a law is enacted limiting the height of buildings the congestion will increase and the number of deaths will also increase in proportion notwithstanding the campaigns to prevent accidents.

The way to prevent accidents is to remove the cause. New York city was not planned for skyscrapers. The streets are the same width as they were half a century ago and yet the buildings on an average are five times higher and they are continually increasing in height